New Faces & New Courses ...

New people have joined the department, which now boasts more faculty than it has ever before. Professor Holly Johnson joined our department in the spring of 2013. Her specialties, Social Informatics, Human Computer Interaction, and On-line information systems, add to the rich research interest of the existing faculty. In addition, Brandy Bradley is the new department secretary. She has been with CWU for more than 10 years. Come by to the main office to get all of your questions answered. Kathy Moore, and Tatiana Harrison, have also joined the department, as instructors.

Several new courses have also been added to the curriculum. CS250, Web Technologies, will be taught by Dr. John Anvik in the winter 2014 quarter. Dr. Gellenbeck, emeritus, previously designed and taught the web tech sequence, which has been sorely missed by students. Modeling in the Sciences, CS298, has also made its debut. Dr. Filip Jagodzinski taught the inaugural course in the summer 2013 quarter. Dr. Holly Johnson taught in the spring 2013 term, and will teach again in the winter 2014 quarter, CS498, Social Informatics. Two new additional courses will be taught in the up-coming spring quarter: CS475, Programming for Distributed Environments, and CS398, Software Engineering for Mobile Devices.

Masters Program – The First and Second Years

With the completion of the first year of the masters program, there were several firsts in the department. Kathy Moore was the first graduate of the computational sciences masters program. She was advised by Dr. Jagodzinski, Dr. Piascek of Physics, and Dr. Kurtz of Chemistry. She successfully defended her Messier Marathon Scheduler project in August 2013. In addition, several other students are on schedule to complete a thesis or project. Among them are Kurt Boberg, Garret Bolton, Emaad Shah, and James Smigaj. Their projects/thesis topics include graph based cryptosystems, mathematical modeling of mountain passes, using neural networks to detect fraudulent Craigslist ads, and semantic search aided by AI techniques. With the start of the second year, two new students have joined the program, bringing to 11, the total number of students enrolled.

Brief News and Notes

The department is actively accepting applications for the graduate computational sciences masters program for entry in fall 2014. An assistantship (tuition waiver and stipend) will be awarded. Please contact the program director, Dr. Razvan Andonie (andonie@cwu.edu, (509) 963-1430), for details.

We are in search of a student liaison, who will help proofread (and has the option to contribute) to the newsletter. Please contact Filip at jagodzinski@cwu.edu for more information.

Upcoming Dates

- **December 5**: End-of-the quarter holiday party, Hebeler room 218, 11:30am-3pm.
- **December 6**: Last day of classes for the fall 2013 term
- **January 6**: First day of classes, winter 2014 quarter

Graduate student Emaad Shah is developing a neural networks approach for detecting fraudulent Craigslist ads.

Garret Bolton is building a Mathematica program to locate and study mountain pass points of non-trivial functions.
A new club, the Ada Lovelace Club – Women In Computing, (http://www.cwu.edu/~alc), has been started in the department. The goal of the club is to provide a supportive educational and social environment for women in Computer Science. During the 2012-2013 academic year, the club participated in several on-campus outreach activities, and traveled to Everett to receive a VIP tour of the Boeing factory, generously organized by a CWU alumni. ALC is currently in its second year, headed by President Jennifer Thomas and Vice President Max Goeke. In November 2013, ALC visited Docusign, ranked by New York Times as the sixth top startup in America. The trip was organized by Tatiana Harrison, who has strong ties with several Seattle and regional tech firms.

ALC compliments the department's other club, the student chapter of the ACM (http://www.cwuacm.org), which has a rich history in our department and which likewise helps students to engage in professional development and outreach activities.

CS480 / CS481 Capstone Projects

The department's capstone CS480/CS481 sequence of courses is off to a strong start. Due to the continuing demand for CS graduates, more and more students are interested in the major. Consequently, 9 projects have been formally started, with clients from the University, the community, as well as Seattle, being stakeholders. The team names are: The Quizzards, Chaos Theory, iNewseys, Geek Squad, Censible Solutions, Team Spasm, Team SpaSM, Lets Get Physical, and The Vulcans. A description of each project is posted outside of the CS main office, and progress presentations will be made throughout this and next (winter) quarter.